(c) Indian Railways do not maintain account of funds allocated/released for the provision of Railway facilities on "State" basis. Projects are sanctioned on a zonal basis. Expenditure incurred on doublings, which can be clearly identified for the State of Kerala, is given below :

1994-95	Rs. 14.00 crores
1995-96	Rs. 43.00 crores
1996-97	Rs. 63.00 crores
1997-98	Rs. 65.00 crores.

Accident Claims

*336. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the average time taken by the claim tribunals to settle the claims;

(b) the details of cases lying pending for more than one to three years;

(c) the reasons for the delay in their settlement; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) about 10 months.

(b)

Name of the Bench	Number of case lying pending for more than one to three years as on 1.7.97
Delhi	2
Lucknow	20
Gorakhpur	15
Chennai	6
Secunderabad	1
Ernakulam	2
Bangalore	5
Bhopal	6
Total	57

(c) Even though top priority is given by the Tribunal to the disposal of accident claims cases, delays occur because of :-

(i) Non-attendance by the applicants or their counsels;

(ii) Adjournments sought by the applicants/their counsel for producing their witnesses or other evidence;

(iii) Non-availability of heirship title with the claimants.

(iv) Transfer of claims cases from one bench to the other, sought by the claimants.

(v) Dispute about guardianship of minor claimants.

(d) Following steps are being taken for speedy disposal of claims of passengers :-

I. **Administrative Action**

(i) Instructions have been issued to all zonal railways that as soon as a passenger train accident or untoward incident takes place all particulars of injured and killed may be obtained, claim application forms sent to claimants, and the record should also be made available to the concerned bench of Railway Claims Tribunal.

(ii) When claims are filled and put up for hearing, the railways should give all possible assistance to the tribunal for speedy settlement.

(iii) Written statements are to be filed by the railways in such cases within 30 days after receipt of notice from RCT.

(iv) Chief Claims Officers have been empowered to sanction decreed amount upto Rs. 2 lakhs without prior finance concurrence.

(v) After the decreetal amount of claim has been sanctioned, railways have to ensure that cheques are issued and dispatched within a period of 15 days.

II. **Action by the Tribunal**

(i) Top priority is given to the disposal of accident claims cases.

(ii) Circuit benches are held from time to time at stations other than headquarters of the bench for convenience of claimants;

ii) Members from one bench are deputed to other benches whenever required due to non-availability of a member at that bench;

(iv) Requests of claimants are allowed for transfer of cases from one bench to the other near to their residence for their convenience.

(v) Adjournments are not ordinarily granted to the parties.

Indecent Programmes and Advertisement on Cable Network

*337. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision for the appointment of officers by the State Governments under the Cable TV Network (Regulation) for the monitoring/checking of the programmes transmitted/retransmitted by the Cable TV Networks;